

Blount Mansion  
Knoxville, Tennessee

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT NO. 19

Historic American Buildings Survey  
J. Frazer Smith, District Officer  
36 So. Evergreen, Memphis, Tenn.

WABG  
TEND  
NO. 101

WILLIAM BLOUNT MANSION  
State Street and Hill Avenue  
Knoxville, Knox County  
Tennessee

Owner: Not given; used as a museum.

Date of Erection: 1792 (central part); 1800 (east wing); 192- (kitchen or est wing).

Architect: No record.

Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two (central part); one and a half (wings).

Materials of Construction: Wood

Other Existing Records: See text; History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, pp.65-67.

Additional Data: See following pages.

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WILLIAM BLOUNT MANSION  
State Street and Hill Avenue  
Knoxville, Knox County,  
Tennessee

HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE:

The Blount Mansion was built in 1792 for Governor William Blount, one of the most important pioneers of Tennessee. He was appointed by George Washington Governor of the territory of the United States south of the Ohio River, and he served from 1790 until 1796. The house is now a shrine and museum.

The mansion is built of wood and is two storeys high in its central part and one storey in its wings. The withdrawing room wing was added in 1800 and the kitchen wing was erected in the 1920's. The old kitchen has been destroyed. The basement contained one finished room, used as an office. Two of the brick chimneys are of the "freestanding" type.

The east end of the State room (or Room of State) is wainscoted to the ceiling with vertical random width pine boards, four to five and a half inches wide. The mantel is of simple design and mouldings. The wall boards in the hall are similar to those in the State room, but are laid horizontally along the wall.

This building shows much more refinement in its details than any other project in the vicinity. The details were probably worked out by a carpenter from the Carolinas.

Author, Ben J. McMurtry  
Approved, J. Frazer Smith

(Revised at HABS Headquarters,  
May 19, 1936 by H.C.F.)  
(Original paper in field notebook).

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Additional Data on the William Blount Mansion.

This house was the first frame house west of the Allegheny Mountains. It was from here that Governor Blount issued the call for the Convention which formed the first Constitution of Tennessee. Here was born on June 1, 1796, the great state of Tennessee.

This data is from History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, compiled by the Garden Club of Nashville, pp.65-67. A plan of the garden and illustration of the withdrawing room are shown, and the private office of Governor Blount beneath the withdrawing room is mentioned.

The date of the house, 1792, is confirmed.

By H.C.F.  
May 1936